

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1 – 36 are cancelled.

37. (New) A viewing device for viewing at least one image transparency having an associated tracking memory, the viewing device comprising:

an illumination device having at least one viewing surface adapted to present at least one illumination pattern;

at least one radio frequency read write device for obtaining electronic data stored in the tracking memory of an image transparency positioned proximate to the viewing surface said tracking memory having a set of access privileges stored therein;

at least one display device for viewing at least one electronic image related to said at least one image transparency; and

a viewing area radio frequency read write device adapted to send a first electromagnetic field into a viewing area and to receive a second electromagnetic field sent from at least one radio frequency transponder associated with at least one viewer in response to the first electromagnetic field, said second electromagnetic field having information stored in a memory of the at least one radio frequency transponder, said stored information including information from which viewing privileges can be determined; and

a control processing unit adapted to receive said obtained data from said associated tracking memory and to use the obtained data for forming the at least one electronic image, said control processing unit being adapted to use information obtained from the tracking memory to define access privileges required for viewing patient related data, without reference to external data sources, and to determine viewing privileges for any identified viewer from information provided in any received second electromagnetic field, said control processing unit being adapted to prevent the illumination device and the display device from facilitating viewing of an image transparency, other patient related images, or patient related content unless the defined access privileges correspond to the determined viewing privileges.

38. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the control processing unit uses the obtained data from said associated tracking memory to obtain a patient related image from a database and forms the at least one electronic image based upon the obtained patient related image.

39. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the control processing unit uses the obtained data from said associated tracking memory to obtain patient related data and forms the at least one electronic image based upon the obtained patient related data.

40. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the control processing unit forms the at least one electronic image using at least one of a patient related image and patient related data that is stored in the tracking memory.

41. (New) The viewing device of claim 40, wherein the at least one of the patient related image and patient related data is stored in a network database.

42. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein once the control processing unit validates the identity and access permissions of viewer and obtains data from the associated tracking memory, the control processing unit is provided access to data stored in a diagnostic imaging system or a records maintenance system.

43. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein at least one illumination pattern is generated by the illumination device for passing through at least one image transparency and wherein the appearance of said at least one illumination pattern is determined based upon data obtained from said associated tracking memory associated with said at least one image transparency.

44. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the at least one illumination pattern is determined based upon data obtained from said associated tracking memory associated with said at least one image transparency.

45. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein said at least one viewing surface comprises a touch screen.

46. (New) The viewing device of claim 45, further comprising a stylus for performing annotations on said viewing surface.

47. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein at one of the at least illumination patterns comprises a generally uniform illumination area and the control processing unit automatically shapes the generally uniform illumination area to correspond with an outline of the image transparency and arranges the generally uniform illumination area so that light from the illumination area passes through the image transparency.

48. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein one of said at least one illumination pattern comprises a generally uniform illumination area wherein the viewing device comprises a sensor for detecting a viewer action that defines the size and placement of the illumination area.

49. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein said radio frequency read write device comprises a radio frequency transponder.

50. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, further comprising a text entry system for receiving an annotation.

51. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, further comprising an audio input system for recording audio information about the at least one image transparency.

52. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the associated tracking memory stores a network address for the at least one electronic image or related data.

53. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the associated tracking memory is a radio frequency transponder.

54. (New) The viewing device of claim 53, wherein the radio frequency transponder has a memory for storing the patient identification information.

55. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein the tracking memory also stores information about characteristics of the image transparency and the control-processing unit adjusts the appearance of the image based upon said illumination characteristics stored in memory.

56. (New) The viewing device of claim 37, wherein if no second electromagnetic field is received in response to the first electromagnetic field no illumination pattern is illuminated.

57. (New) The viewing device of claim 56, wherein if a second electromagnetic field is received in response to the first electromagnetic field an illumination pattern is illuminated.

58. (New) A viewing device having for viewing at least one image transparency having an associated tracking memory, comprising:

an illumination device having at least one viewing surface adapted to present at least one illumination pattern;

a display device adapted to form at least one electronic image related to said at least one image transparency;

a radio frequency read write device for obtaining electronic data stored in a tracking memory of an image transparency positioned proximate to the viewing surface, said electronic data including access privilege information and for obtaining electronic data including viewing privilege information stored in a radio frequency transponder associated with at least one viewer in a viewing area; and

a control processing unit adapted to receive said obtained data from said associated tracking memory and to use the obtained data for forming

the at least one electronic image and for controlling the appearance of at least one illumination pattern;

wherein the control processing unit does not allow the illumination device to form an illumination area for viewing the image transparency or to present the formed image unless the control processing unit determines that the access privilege information corresponds to the viewing privilege information.

59. (New) The viewing device of claim 58, wherein the at least one electronic image comprises an image that depicts subject matter that is similar to the subject matter of the image transparency but captured at a different time.

60. (New) The viewing device of claim 58, wherein the at least one electronic image comprises an annotation for the image transparency image.

61. (New) The viewing device of claim 58, wherein the illumination area and the electronic image at least partially overlap.

62. (New) A viewing device for viewing an image transparency having a tracking memory; the apparatus comprising:

a means for reading data from the tracking memory and means for obtaining data from a radio frequency transponder associated with at least one viewer in a viewing area, said data including viewing privilege data;

a means for presenting at least one image on a display surface;

a means for forming an illumination pattern for viewing the image transparency so that the transparency can be viewed in the viewing area;

a means for using the obtained data in presenting at least one of the electronic image and the illumination pattern; and,

a means for operating the illumination device so that the illumination device does not form an illumination area for viewing the image transparency unless the control processing unit determines, from the data obtained from the tracking memory and from the data obtained from the radio frequency transponder associated with the viewer that the viewer is authorized to view the image transparency.

63. (New) The viewing device of claim 62, wherein the means for using the obtained data in presenting at least one of the electronic image and the illumination pattern is adapted to use the obtained data to access data comprising at least one of a patient related image and patient related data and to use the accessed data to form the electronic image.

64. (New) The viewing device of claim 62, wherein the means for using the obtained data in presenting at least one of the electronic image and the illumination pattern is adapted to use the obtained data to access data indicating at least one of information about the image transparency, the time that the image was recorded on the image transparency and the imaging process used to record the image on the image transparency and to use the accessed data to form the electronic image.

65. (New) The viewing device of claim 62, further comprising means for detecting viewers proximate to the viewing device, to use the obtained data to determine whether the detected viewers are authorized to view the image transparency and means for preventing the formation of an illumination area where at least one viewer is not authorized to view the image transparency.